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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sept. 2, 2010

## **National Think Tank Ranks Maryland 3<sup>rd</sup> for State Agency Efficiency Policies**

ANNAPOLIS, MD – This week, the Center for American Progress released a report that ranked Maryland third in the nation with the best policies “to accelerate demand for energy efficiency services, businesses, and ultimately jobs.” The report ranked Maryland just behind Connecticut and California, stating that as the energy efficiency market “rapidly grows in coming years, states (like Maryland) that have put in place strong policies for energy efficiency will be best positioned to capture these new employment opportunities.”

“Tens of thousands of families have already benefitted from energy retrofits and audits, including low to moderate income families looking to save on their electric bills,” said Governor Martin O'Malley. “We've done whole building energy retrofits for more than 14,000 homes in Maryland, supporting the creation of almost 2,000 green jobs.”

Maryland earned this ranking through the efforts of Governor O'Malley's EmPower Maryland initiative to reduce electricity consumption statewide by 15% by 2015. This goal is being met in part through ongoing programs and incentives at the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA): MEA's Appliance Rebate Program helps Marylanders upgrade to energy efficient appliances; the EmPowering Clean Energy Communities Grant program provides funds that help Maryland counties assist low-to-moderate income households with energy efficiency retrofits; and the State Agency Loan Program (SALP) provides zero interest loans to state agencies for energy efficient improvements. Many other programs and initiatives are also available.

“This ranking confirms Maryland's status as one of the nation's top states for clean energy businesses,” said Malcolm Woolf. “As we continue to EmPower Maryland, energy efficiency remains the most cost-effective way to reduce energy use and save money. The green jobs created as a result of these efforts – and the additional green jobs created as a result of MEA's renewable energy incentives – are just a small part of what Maryland residents can do to keep Maryland Smart, Green, & Growing.”

Not only has Maryland established remarkable energy efficiency policies, but the State has also led by example. State facility energy conservation projects have reduced the State's energy consumption by 7.5%, saving taxpayers more than \$2 million and reducing the State Government's carbon footprint by 5,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually. Additional gains made across the State include:

- Marylanders consumed 2 million MWh less electricity in 2009 compared to two years prior.
- Provided rebates to more than 2 million Marylanders for the purchase of energy efficient appliances.
- Provided \$52 million in grants to every Maryland county and 133 municipalities for energy efficiency projects.

For more information about the Center for American Progress or to read the report, visit <http://www.americanprogress.org>.

For more information about the MEA, visit <http://energy.maryland.gov>.

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